SPECIAL
COUNCIL MEETING
July 26, 1988

A special meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held July 26, 1988 at 7:30 P.M. in the council chambers with the Mayor Charles E. Dean presiding. The following council members were present: R. E. Davis, B. B. Holt, R. B. Hutton, H. W. Leap, L. C. Life and R. L. Snow. Norma Leap, Clerk, Gerald Monger, Superintendent and Warren Pence, Chief of Police were also present.

Councilman B. B. Holt moved, seconded by Councilman R. B. Hutton to approve on Second Reading a resolution to repeal Section 7-2-1 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Elkton, Virginia entitled "When Sale of Beer & Wine Prohibited", effective July 26, 1988. The vote was recorded as follows:

Davis	-	nay	Leap	-	yea
Holt	-	yea	Life	-	yea
Hutton	-	yea	Snow	-	yea

Mayor Dean presented a plaque to Mr. Harold Leet in appreciation for his approximate 10 years of service on the Elkton Town Council.

Chief Pence reported that he has mailed two letters by certified mail to the two properties which he reported to council at the last meeting as not being maintained to the proper standards. The properties are located at 224 Spring Avenue and the intersection of "D" Street and Morgan Avenue. The property on Spring Avenue has been improved some but Chief Pence requested that council go by to see if they feel it meets their standards. Chief Pence reported he has received no response on the property on "D" and Morgan. Some trim work has been done on the grass, but the old building is still there and imposes a danger to small children as well as others in the community. He recommended action be taken on this piece of property.

Mayor Dean reported he had received the following letter just before the meeting tonight from Mr. Schumacher:

"In regards to notification of a hearing on the matter of a public nuisance on lot 10, block 47, Section 3 on July 26, 1988.

First, in regards to a notification of unmowed grass:

The day Sergeant Wayne Weaver told me of a complaint, I contacted a man to cut the grass. I was surprised when about five or six days later the sergeant came to my office and said the grass still needed to be mowed. I again contacted the man and he mowed it the next morning.

Secondly, in regards to the remainder of the house being demolished:

A number of weeks ago I approached Chief Warren Pence and discussed the matter with him, explaining that we had signed a contract with Victo George Grites of Strasburg to remove the house and clean up the site in exchange for the salvage material with work to be finished no more than 60 days from the January 12, 1988 contract signing date.

I told Chief Pence that from the wording of the contract that the house belonged to Mr. Grites and its continued existence appeared to constitute a safety hazard and asked if Chief Pence would write a letter to Mr. Grites because I felt that a letter from the Town of Elkton police would be more effective than another letter from me.

Incidently, I have written to Mr. Grites several times and spoken to him and each time he promises to complete the work Real Soon Now. But nothing happens, since he has removed most of the materials that would have any resale value.

Chief Pence retained a copy of the contract and told me he would look into the matter and get back to me.

After several weeks of having had no response from the Chief I asked my secretary to call. The Chief was out but she was told he would return the call.

Following about another week without hearing anything, I asked my secretary to call again. She was once again told he was not working that shift but would be given the message.

The next day I (July 19) received the notice of the public nuisance hearing.

Since I received the notice about three hours before leaving town for the remainder of the week, I asked my secretary to once again call and ask if he had been able to take the action I requested. Upon my return Monday she told me she had called, but had not received a return call.

Since I have now concluded that I can expect no assistance in the matter, I have spoken with the contractor who is erecting the new building and he will complete the demolition and clean up work from the old building, of course, at an additional expense of the lot owner, even though the building belongs to someone else.

I hope this letter brings to your attention matters of which you, the council and complainant may not have been aware of and that you find this disposition of the matter satisfactory.

Enclosure: Copy of Dismantling Contract"

Chief Pence stated he had contacted Mr. Schumacher on each of those occasions mentioned and had sent a certified letter to the contractor asking him to contact the town as to what his time frame is on completing the demolition of the building.

Council discussed the need of setting a time limit to have the building removed and the area put in order.

Councilman B. B. Holt moved, seconded by Councilwoman L. C. Life to declare the property at 224 Spring Avenue and the property at "D" and Morgan be designated as a nuisance and likely to endanger public health and safety. If action is not taken by the owners or their representatives within two weeks to bring these properties up to proper standards further action, as outlined in the town code, will be taken. The vote was recorded as follows:

Davis	-	yea	Leap	-	yea
Holt	-	yea	Life	-	yea
Hutton	-	yea	Snow	-	yea

Councilman Leap reported that one of the town employees has checked the rates of the three or four long distance companies listed as choices on the ballot. The result was that with no more out of state calls than is made by the town there is probably not going to be much difference in price. Councilwoman Life stated that the results indicate that A T & T would probably cover our needs more efficiently in all areas.

Councilman H. W. Leap moved, seconded by Councilwoman L. C. Life and carried to select A T & T as the town's long distance carrier.

Councilman Leap suggested delaying action on the Cemetery By-Laws as copies were not available for each council member to review. Council was in agreement to delay action until next meeting and each council member would receive a copy of the by-laws in time to review them before the meeting.

Councilwoman Life reported that the town has received the work order from Norfolk Southern on the caboose. A Mr. Crute will be getting in touch with her before they deliver the caboose. Today she talked with Prentice Gooden, a neighbor and retired from the railroad, and he has said he will be glad to help the town with this. The town will need to put in place at least a foot in depth of stone. Mr. Gooden will try to obtain rail and ties which will have to be anchored. The town will need a lowboy to move the caboose and possibly a crane to load and unload. She asked council to consider and give her suggestions for a place to put the caboose. She wants this caboose to be a memorial to the railroad people in our community.

Councilman H. W. Leap moved, seconded by Councilman B. B. Holt and carried to go into Executive Session to discuss possible litigation with Rockingham County.

Councilman B. B. Holt moved, seconded by Councilwoman L. C. Life and carried to go from Executive Session back into Regular Session.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned.

MAYOR: Charles E. Dean
Charles E. Dean, Mayor

RECORDER: Norma R. Leap
Norma R. Leap, Clerk